Level of sugar production in the country;

(A) The Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane payable by sugar factories for 1992-93 sugar season has been raied to Rs. 31/- per quintal linked to a basic recovery of 8.5 per cent, as against Rs. 26.00 per quintal for the pre-yious season.

(B) For the 1093-94 sugar sea son, the SMP of sugarcane has been announced in advance at Rs. 32.50 per quintal linked to a basic recovery of 8.5 POT cent.

(C) The ex-factory price of levy sugar has been raised commensu rate with the increase in SMP, conversion cost & distribution cost. A provision of 40 p./kg. has also been made to recoup the deficits in the Levy Sugar Price Equalisation Fund Account of the Food Corporation of India pertaining to earlier years.

(D) Creation of a buffer stock of 5 lakh, tonnes w.e.f. 1.4.1993 for which sugar factories will be reim bursed storage, interest and insur ance charges from the Sugar Deve_ lopment Fund.

(E) The levy: freesale ratio of sugar has been changed to 40:60 for 1992-93 season from the earlier ratio of 45:55.

(F) Mid and late period crushing incentives have been announced as under:—

(i) *Mid-crushing-*. The incremen-tal/additional production during the period 1.1.1993 to 30.4.1993 over the production in the corresponding prriod duntng 1991-92 season would be entitled to 30 per cent freesale. as against the normal freesale entitlement of 60 per cent.

(ii) *Later-crushing-*. The sugar production during the period 1.5.93 *to* 31.7.1993 would be entitled to 72 per cent freesale, as against the normal' free-sale, entitlement of 60 per cent.

(f) and (g): The sugar licensing nolicy (including the option of delicensing, is being examined in all .its aspects. In the meanwhile the present licensing arrangements, notified vide Press Note dated 8.11.1991 will conti-

Procurement of Wheat

572 SHRI P. UPENDRA; Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food Corporation of India and other Government agencies propose to procure at least 100 lakh tonnes of wheat during the Rabi Season; and

lb) if so, what are the details of the plan and whether procurement has since commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD {SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) As the pro-cjrmant of wneat by FCI and State p. t.curing agencies is irade under support price operations on a voluntary basis, it is not possible to fix any pro-"*rfement targets as such.

(b) Adequate number of purchase centres i.e. about 9500 have been opened in major wheat producing States to procure wheat at the procurement prices fixed by the Government. The procurement of wheat for the current. 19P3-94 rabi marketing season had "immenced from 1st April; 1993 and i auantity of 29.48 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured upto 28.4.93 in the 1993-94 rabi season against 30,83 lakh tonnes procured during the errrcsnondtng period last year.